



1296-015

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Date 10/18/01 By [Signature]

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of	)	
	)	
Rocheleau, John W.	)	
	)	Art Unit: 3629
Serial No.: 09/764,473	)	Examiner: Dunwoody, A..
	)	
Filed: January 17, 2001	)	
	)	
For: PIPE FLANGE AND	)	
PIPING SYSTEM	)	

### DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C., 20231

Sir:

1. I declare that my name is Edward Morris and that I am Operations Manager for the Johnson & Dix Fuel Corp., having a mailing address at PO Box 1678; Concord, NH 03302..
2. I declare that my work experience is as follows:  
34 years in the heating service industry with the same company.

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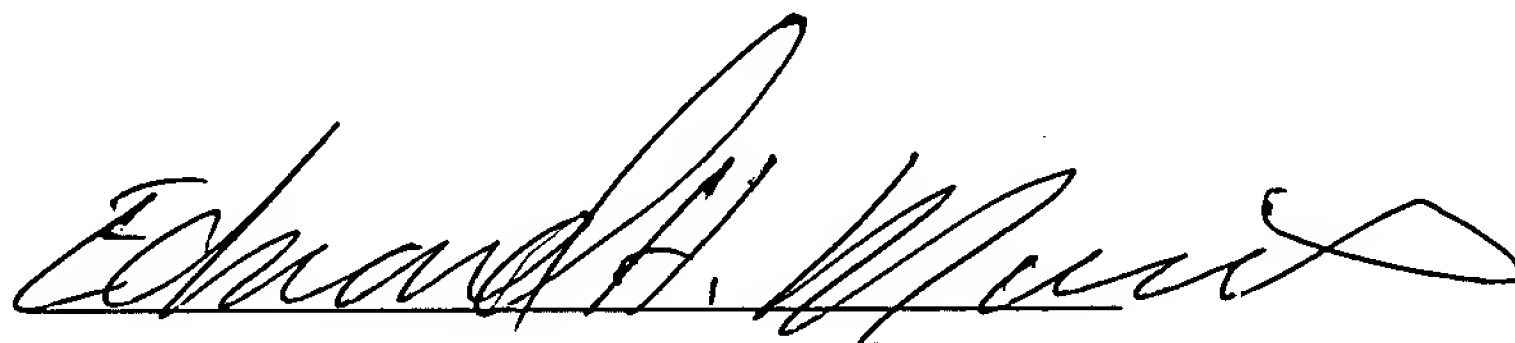
Based upon my experience, I likewise declare that I am one of at least ordinary skill in the art of flanges and piping systems. I also declare that I am not related to the Applicant and have no financial interest in the above referenced patent application.

3. I declare that I have read the above referenced patent application, including the claims as amended, the Official Action, and the Shaw reference cited by the Examiner.
4. I declare that the union connection disclosed by Shaw is not a threaded pipe flange and does not have a shoulder portion that extends from, and is integral to, a base portion. Rather, the union connection of Shaw utilizes loose flanges that are joined together to compress the threaded portions once the threaded portions have been assembled to one another. I further declare that, absent the separate flange and bolts, the flange and threaded connection would not remain in contact with one another, as a single flange cannot be attached to a single connection.
5. I declare that I would not know, based upon the teachings of Shaw or my knowledge of one of at least ordinary skill in the art, to modify Shaw to obtain a flange having a base portion and integral shoulder portion as claimed in Mr. Rocheleau's patent application.
6. I declare that the problem of attaching circulator pipe flanges has been known for many years. However, I would not know, based upon the teachings of Shaw or my knowledge of one of at least ordinary skill in the art, to modify Shaw to obtain a flange having a base portion and integral shoulder portion to solve the problem of attaching a circulator pipe flange.

7. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of any application or patent issuing thereon.

3/10/01

Date



Edward "Skip" Morris

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